SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the paragraph on page 11, line 4 as follows:

--"Organically modified clay," as used herein, refers to a clay that has been modified by the addition of a swelling agent. Any organic molecules suitable as swelling agents may be used. Preferably, the swelling agents include cationic surfactants, for example including ammonium, phosphonium or sulfonium salts; amphoteric surface active agents; derivatives of aliphatic, aromatic or arylaliphatic amines, phosphines and sulfides; and organosilane compounds; and combinations thereof. Other suitable swelling agents include protonated amino acids and salts thereof containing 2-30 carbon atoms, such as 12-aminododecanoic acid, epsilon-caprolactam~~epsilon-caprolactum~~, and like materials, as well as any combinations thereof. This process of swelling the clay, particularly layered clay, known as intercalation, results in the development of intercalates (stacks) which are more organophilic and which can be more readily exfoliated (dispersed) during admixture with a polymer to form a polymer/clay nanocomposite. These clay intercalates are often about 1 nanometer thick, but about 100 to 1,000 nanometers across. This high aspect ratio, and the resulting high surface area, helps provides high reinforcement efficiency at low loading levels. In one embodiment, the clays of the invention are preferably at least substantially exfoliated (dispersed) throughout the polyolefin/functionalized polyolefin polymer matrix, and more preferably are completely exfoliated throughout the polymer matrix.--